

CLAIMS

1. A handwriting recognition system comprising:  
means responsive to input analogue signals representative of movement of a  
5 handheld writing device;  
sampling means to provide signals representative of the acceleration of the  
writing device in at least x axis and y axis channels at a predetermined capture  
sampling rate; and  
filtering means to remove dc level components and to provide smoothing of  
10 the output whereby signals representative of movement of the pen over a period are  
supplied to a classifier for comparison with a template representative of characters  
formed.
2. A handwriting recognition system as claimed in claim 1, in which the  
15 classifier uses a hidden Markov model for comparison purposes.
3. A handwriting recognition system as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which  
the sampling means, filtering means and classifier are implemented in a digital  
computer environment.  
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4. A method of analysing signals from a moving handheld device, the method  
comprising sampling signals at a predetermined rate, passing signals through a  
bandpass filter to remove dc level and excess acceleration components, sampling the  
filtered output to provide a series of vectors representing the position of the handheld  
25 device at periodic intervals and using a classifier to compare the sample sets with  
predetermined templates to determine the character for output.

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